



1940



THE
PACKERS CENTURY

P R O J E C T

ALL THE GAMES. ALL THE STORIES.

1919-2019

BY JIM RICE

packerscentury.com



1940

Record: 6-4-1 2nd Western Division

Coach: Curly Lambeau

- After 1939's championship, Curly Lambeau joined the Executive Board as a second vice-president.
- The last time the Packers won as few as six games was 1933.
- Both the offense and defense were strong. The season started well (3-1), but the team fizzled in the second half (3-3-1). They finished second behind the Bears.
- Quarterback Cecil Isbell continued to add a running dimension to the position, and Don Hutson led the league in points scored, and touchdown catches.
- In November, the Packers became the first NFL team to fly to a game. However, after refueling in Cleveland, the fog in New York forced them to take the train the rest of the way. After the game, they flew from New York to Chicago without interruption.



1919-2019

PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES
PACKERS

20
27

9.15.1940

Fine Start

In the first quarter, quarterback Cecil Isbell ran for a touchdown and threw two touchdown strikes to Carl Mulleaneaux for a 21-0 lead. Clarke Hinkle booted two 45-yard field goals, and by the fourth quarter, the Packers led 27-6.

In the final 15 minutes, Philadelphia quarterback Davey O'Brien rallied his team with a long pass to rookie Don Looney to set up a touchdown. On the Packers next series, a 31-yard pick-six by Looney cut the lead to 27-20. On their next possession, Philadelphia began with good field position on their 40 yard line. Green Bay's defense didn't budge as Charley Brock deflected a pass that Don Hutson intercepted. It was Hutson's second pick of the day, and along with Hinkle's deep punt, it slammed the door closed on the Eagles.

Philadelphia	0	6	0	14	20
Green Bay	21	0	6	0	27

Attendance: 11,657

*"Jimmy Kimberly, Neenah industrialist and sportsman, was here to see the Packers in general and three of his employers in a seasonal occupation. Hinkle, Hutson, and Isbell all worked for the Kimberly-Clark Company, and will be right back at the paper machines when the season is over."*¹

¹ packershistory.net/1940Packers



CHICAGO
BEARS
PACKERS

41
10 **9.22.1940**

The Bears handed the Packers their worst loss to date.

This was the first game for the Chicago and the second skirmish for the Packers. The scheduling difference allowed George Halas and his staff to scout the Packers-Eagles game last week. Papa Bear couldn't have imagined how helpful the scouting would be. The Bears intercepted seven passes, and two of the picks led directly to touchdowns.

After the Packers took a 3-0 lead, Chicago's rookie halfback George McAfee started his career by taking the ensuing kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown. McAfee also caught a seven-yard touchdown pass, and ran for a nine-yard score. Veteran back Ray Nolting added a 97-yard kickoff return to finish off the Packers.

"They Packers literally fought their hearts out against the Bears. Some of them were so tired that they hardly could drag themselves from the field."¹

Chicago	7	7	14	13	41
Green Bay	3	0	7	0	10
Attendance: 22,557					

Photo Caption: "En route to Packer stadium yesterday were these football fans from Ironwood, Michigan. An American Legion sponsored train on the North Western Line brought the fans to the Bear-Packer game, accompanied by the crack Sons of Liberty Drum and Bugle Corps, which marched between halves."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/23/40, Walter, p. 15

2 Green Bay Press-Gazette 9/23/40, p. 16



CHICAGO
CARDINALS
PACKERS

6
31 9.29.1940

Six more interceptions by Green Bay's defense stopped the Cardinals at nearly every turn. On their opening possession, an interception by Clarke Hinkle led to quarterback Cecil Isbell's touchdown run and a 7-0 lead. Hinkle also kicked a field goal, and Isbell's 35-yard touchdown pass to Don Hutson extended the lead to 17-0.

In the third quarter, Isbell took off again for a 39-yard dash to the end zone to put the game out of reach 24-6. The only drawback for Green Bay was the year-ending knee injury to veteran halfback Joe Laws.

Chicago	0	6	0	0	6
Green Bay	17	0	14	0	31

Attendance: 20,234

Milwaukee

Total Yards: GB 317 CHI 211

Before the game, Buckets Goldenberg, whose hometown is Milwaukee, thanked the crowd, "after receiving an automobile from admiring friends"¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/30/40, p. 15



CLEVELAND
RAMS
PACKERS

14
31 **10.13.1940**

Green Bay's "overhead touchdown offensive was clicking, and it provided a full measure of thrills for the crowd."¹ Both teams preferred the airways for yardage, and between them, they threw 79 passes for 600+ yards.

Three touchdown passes by Cecil Isbell, and one by Arnie Herber put this one in the win column easily. Carl Mulleaneux caught two of Isbell's touchdowns bombs, and the Packers were never threatened.

Cleveland	0	7	0	7	14
Green Bay	3	14	7	7	31
Attendance:	16,299				

"Two footballs (were) snagged by the fans after kicks into the stands. Howard Levitas thought that it would be less expensive to pass up the kick after touchdown. Seems that the balls run \$9 wholesale - \$14 retail - and the football corporation should not be chastised too severely for not condoning the thefts."²

1 Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/14/40, Walter, p. 13
2 Packershistory.net/1940Packers (News & Notes, 10/14)



1919-2019

DETROIT
LIONS
PACKERS

23
14

10.20.1940

The Packers held on for the first 30 minutes before giving the game away. It was a bad day for passing, and Green Bay's "bread and butter" fell flat. Quarterbacks Arnie Herber and Cecil Isbell both threw for touchdowns, but they also threw six of the seven interceptions grabbed by the Lions.

After the Packers gave away the ball away twice early – one by future Supreme Court Justice Byron "Whizzer" White – Green Bay finally scored on a 28-yard touchdown pass from Isbell to Carl Mulleaneaux. Before halftime, the Lions tied it.

In the third quarter, a short pass from Herber to end Bob Adkins went for a 55-yard score to put Green Bay back on top 14-7. The Lions didn't wilt, and a 70-yard pass from "Whizzer" White to Chuck Hannemann set up a short run that tied it. A field goal by Hannemann followed, and in the fourth quarter pick-six by Alex Wojciechowicz proved too much for Green Bay.

Detroit	0	7	10	6	23
Green Bay	0	7	7	0	14
Attendance:	21,001				

Photo Caption: "Mrs. Ada Wendt's interest in the Packers might not have been so unusual had she not been 69 years old, a radio bug who never ventured from the machine when the Packers were playing, and a collector of Green Bay football lore which she plastered faithfully into a large scrapbook. Consequently, it was a great pleasure the other day when Mrs. Wendt walked into the office, advanced to the sports desk and announced that she was back for a visit with some more Packers. She was in town to see the Packers play the Detroit Lions, and was very disappointed because the final score gave greater emphasis to the Detroit offense than it did to the Packer defense."¹

¹ Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/23/40, Walter, p. 13



1919-2019

PITTSBURGH

STEELERS
PACKERS

3
24

10.27.1940

The Packers won easily while they rested several starters for next week's game against the Bears.

The Steelers were held to 95 total yards while the Packers generated 296. Green Bay picked off five passes, and Bob Adkins' 35-yard pick-six started the scoring. After a Pittsburgh field goal, Green Bay scored the next 17 points highlighted by rookie Hal Van Every's 19-yard touchdown to Don Hutson. The only setback for Green Bay was the injury to fullback Eddie Jankowski.

Pittsburgh	3	0	0	0	3
Green Bay	7	3	0	14	24

Attendance: 13,703

Milwaukee

*"The Packer corporation turned up with another splendid between-halves show Sunday. This time it was the Boy Scouts' Drum and Bugle Corps from the Racine Council of the Boy Scouts of America. William L. Peterson is director of the unit, which was six times national junior champion in drum corps competition."*¹

¹ Packershistory.net/1940Packers (News & Notes, Oct. 28)



1919-2019

PACKERS

CHICAGO

BEARS

7

11.3.1940

14

Big game

A must win for the Packers started fast with all of the points in the game scored in the first half.

Chicago got on the board first with a 60-yard scoring drive led by their ground game. Green Bay tied it early in the second stanza when Arnie Herber "stuffed a touchdown pass down Don Hutson's ever-receptive throat,"⁴ from five yards out! Other than that, the Packers failed to score on several opportunities deep inside Chicago territory.

After Hutson's catch, Chicago's Scooter McLean returned the ensuing kickoff 56 yards. It set up Gary Famiglietti's seven-yard touchdown run which turned out to be the winner.

In the second half, the Packers managed just 139 yards. They turned the ball over five times, and quarterback Cecil Isbell threw three interceptions.

Green Bay	0	7	0	0	7
Chicago	7	7	0	0	14

Attendance: 45,434

Rushing Yards: GB 56 CHI 202

1 Packers vs. Bears, Swain, p. 90



1919-2019

PACKERS
CHICAGO
CARDINALS

28

11.10.1940

7

After losing to the Bears, the Packers were eager to get back on the field. They soundly defeated the Cardinals in all phases of the game and got themselves back into the title chase when the Bears lost.

Clarke Hinkle's three touchdowns showed the way, and in the process, he became Green Bay's all-time leading scorer! "Clarke Hinkle was the Jim Taylor of his day, and also the Ray Nitschke," said esteemed Packer author, Chuck Johnson, acknowledging Hinkle's stellar play on both sides of the ball.

In the first quarter, Hinkle caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Arnie Herber. He scored on a one-yard run in the second quarter to put the Pack in front to stay 14-7. As the game wound down, Hinkle intercepted a pass on the Bears' 22. Three plays later, he scored from the nine to put away the home team.

Green Bay	7	7	0	14	28
Chicago	0	7	0	0	7

Attendance: 11,364

QB Cecil Isbell ran for 118 yards.

1 Greatest Packers of them All, Johnson, p. 27



1919-2019

PACKERS

NEW YORK

GIANTS

3

11.17.1940

7

One play!

Green Bay's Larry Buhler fumbled the opening kickoff on the 20-yard line, and the Giants capitalized with a touchdown. Quarterback Len Barnum and Leland Shaffer connected for a 7-0 lead with just 1:47 gone.

That was all New York needed. They played conservatively the entire game throwing just six passes for 25 yards and one interception. In the fourth quarter, Green Bay threatened but dropped passes by Larry Craig, and Andy Uram forced a Clarke Hinkle field goal from the 31-yard line.

On Green Bay's last drive, Hutson dropped a pass from Arnie Herber at midfield, and Len Barnum intercepted Cecil Isbell. It was a fitting conclusion to a game controlled by New York's defense which shut down the passing game (94 yards), and picked off two passes.

Green Bay 0 0 0 3 3

New York 7 0 0 0 7

Attendance: 28,262



PACKERS

DETROIT

LIONS

50

11.24.1940

7

Wow!

This was an overpowering performance by Green Bay with seven touchdowns and five interceptions. Six different Packers scored. They led 27-0 at halftime and 43-0 before the Lions put together a scoring drive in the fourth quarter. Both fullback Eddie Jankowski and halfback Andy Uram scored twice.

Green Bay	13	14	3	20	50
Detroit	0	0	0	7	7
Attendance:	26,019				



1919-2019

PACKERS

CLEVELAND

RAMS

13

12.1.1940

13

Green Bay booted a field goal on its first possession, but Cleveland led 7-3 at halftime on the strength of a five-yard touchdown run by fullback Johnny Drake. They scored again in the third quarter, but missed the extra point.

Green Bay rallied to tie it on a Don Hutson touchdown catch, and a Clarke Hinkle field goal. In the final seconds, Hinkle tried a third field goal from the 33-yard line, but it sailed wide right.

During the game, a number of calls went against Green Bay and the Press Gazette commented the next day, "We haven't bellyached about officiating all year, so perhaps it's as well to let it go on the final game."¹

Green Bay	3	0	0	10	13
Cleveland	0	7	6	0	13

Attendance: 16,249

Total Yards: GB 335 CLE 214

¹ Green Bay Pres-Gazette, 12/2/40, Walter, p. 17



THE
**PACKERS CENTURY
PROJECT**

1919-2019

1940 Team Statistics

FINAL STANDINGS - Western Division

	W	L	T
Chicago Bears	8	3	0
Green Bay	6	4	1
Detroit	5	5	1
Cleveland	4	6	1
Chicago	2	7	0

TEAM LEADERS

Passing	Isbell
Receiving	Hutson
Rushing	Hinkle
Scoring	Hutson
Interceptions	Hutson

ALL-PRO

Charley Brock	Center
Clarke Hinkle	Fullback
Don Hutson	End
Cecil Isbell	Quarterback
Russ Letlow	Guard
Carl Mulleneaux	End

NOTEABLE DRAFT PICKS (Round, Position)

Hal Van Every (1, B/QB)

Lou Brock (3, B)

George Seeman (8, E)



1919 - 2019

PACKERS CENTURY

with Jim Rice

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